



(2) a second layer of separator material shaped to form a pocket around the cathode to encase the cathode therein and through which the first connector tab extends, whereby two layers of separator material separate the anode and cathode when wound into the coil of the electrode assembly.

REMARKS

In the Advisory Action mailed September 13, 2002, the Examiner advises that the reply filed by Applicant on August 23, 2002 would not be entered since the amendments contained therein require further consideration and do not immediately place the application in condition for allowance. In response, Applicant has filed a request for a Continued Prosecution Application under 37 CFR 1.53(d) concurrently herewith, requesting entry of the unentered amendment, along with a petition for a three-month extension of time extending the statutory period for responding to the final Office Action mailed April 26, 2002 from July 26, 2002 to October 26, 2002.

In the September 13, 2002 Advisory Action, the Examiner further states that "the proposed language is not believed to be supported by the parent '760 patent". However, as was previously pointed out in the Response to Office Action of February 7, 2001 mailed by Applicant on May 8, 2001, and in the Amendment mailed by Applicant on January 25, 2002, it is respectfully asserted that the '760 patent does teach the length of the anode current collector being shorter than the length of the elongated strip of alkali metal. For example, FIG. 1 of the '760 patent clearly shows the anode current collector 5 (cross-hatched portion) being shorter in length than the alkali metal layer 10 (noncross-hatched portion). Therefore, it is respectfully asserted that since the '760 patent teaches that the anode current collector is shorter than the alkali metal strip.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this Preliminary Amendment, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney to attend to these matters.

Respectfully submitted,

William G. Howard,
By his attorney,

Date: October 17, 2002

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael C. Soldner", written over a horizontal line.

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

1. (Five Times Amended) An electrode assembly for an electrochemical cell of the type comprising an elongated anode assembly and an elongated cathode assembly wound unidirectionally in side-by-side relation into a coil comprising a plurality of alternating anode and cathode assembly layers built up from an innermost layer through inner layers to an outermost layer such that the outermost layer of the coil comprises an end segment of one of the anode assembly or the cathode assembly wherein:

(a) the anode assembly comprises:

- (1) an anode comprising an elongated strip of alkali metal and an anode current collector having at least a first connector tab disposed to extend away from a side edge thereof, the elongated strip of alkali metal having a first length and the anode current collector having a second length, the second length of the anode current collector being shorter than the first length of the elongated strip of alkali metal; and
- (2) a first layer of separator material shaped to form a pocket around the anode to encase the anode therein and through which the first connector tab extends; and

(b) the cathode assembly comprises:

- (1) a cathode comprising an elongated cathode current collector having a second connector tab disposed to extend away from a side edge thereof, the cathode current collector having a third length, and a cathode material bonded to the cathode current collector; and
- (2) a second layer of separator material shaped to form a pocket around the cathode to encase the cathode therein and through which the first connector tab extends, whereby two layers of separator material separate the anode and cathode when wound into the coil of the electrode assembly.

10. (Five Times Amended) An electrode assembly for an electrochemical cell of the type comprising an elongated anode assembly and an elongated cathode assembly wound unidirectionally in side-by-side relation into a coil comprising a plurality of alternating anode and cathode assembly layers built up from an innermost layer through inner layers to an outermost layer such that outermost layer of the coil comprises an end segment of the anode assembly, wherein.

(a) the anode assembly comprises:

- (1) an anode comprising an elongated strip of alkali metal and an anode current collector having at least a first connector tab disposed to extend away from a side edge thereof, the elongated strip of alkali metal having a first length, the anode current collector having a second length shorter than the first length, the anode current collector being disposed against an end segment of the elongated strip of alkali metal corresponding to an end segment of the anode assembly that when wound into the coil disposes at least a portion of the anode current collector in the outermost layer of the coil; and
- (2) a first layer of separator material shaped to form a pocket around the anode to encase the anode therein and through which the first connector tab extends; and

(b) the cathode assembly comprises:

- (1) a cathode comprising an elongated cathode current collector having a second connector tab disposed to extend away from a side edge thereof, the cathode current collector having a third length, the third length shorter than the first length by an amount that enables the end segment of the anode assembly to be wound into the outermost layer of the coil, and a cathode material bonded to the cathode current collector; and

(2) a second layer of separator material shaped to form a pocket around the cathode to encase the cathode therein and through which the first connector tab extends, whereby two layers of separator material separate the anode and cathode when wound into the coil of the electrode assembly.